

What is claimed is:

1. A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
administering to an epithelium surface an effective amount of a non-ionic osmolyte,
wherein
5 said surface has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the
ionic strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and
promoting antimicrobial activity against infectious cells.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.
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3. The method of claim 1, wherein said surface is external or internal.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said surface is selected from the group consisting
of an external eye, an oral pharynx, and a vagina.
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5. A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
administering to an external eye an effective amount of a non-ionic osmolyte, wherein said
external eye has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the
ionic strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and
promoting antimicrobial activity against infectious cells.
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6. The method of claim 5, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.
7. A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
25 administering to an oral pharynx an effective amount of a non-ionic osmolyte, wherein said
pharynx has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the
ionic strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and
promoting antimicrobial activity against infectious cells.
- 30 8. The method of claim 7, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.

9. A method of killing infectious cells comprising:
administering to a vaginal surface an effective amount of a non-ionic osmolyte, wherein
said

5 surface has a fluid containing endogenous antimicrobials, thereby reducing the ionic
strength of said fluid containing said endogenous antimicrobials and promoting
antimicrobial activity against infectious cells

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said non-ionic osmolyte is xylitol.